



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

**Monday, November 21, 2011**

**10:00 AM**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Curry, Vice Chair Berger, Vice Chair Kang, Vice Chair Friedman, Commissioner Franzen, Commissioner Kleinberg, Commissioner Olivas, Commissioner Savelle, Commissioner Sorkin and Commissioner Trevino-Powell

Excused: Commissioner Biondi, Commissioner McClaney, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Rudnick and Commissioner Williams

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to order. (11-5025)

**The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:03 a.m.**

2. Introduction of November 21, 2011, meeting attendees. (11-5026)

**Self-introductions were made.**

3. Approval of the Agenda of November 21, 2011. (11-5027)

**On motion of Commissioner Kleinberg, seconded by Vice Chair Kang (Commissioners Biondi, Olivas, McClaney, Murray, Rudnick and Williams being absent), this item was approved.**

**II. REPORTS**

4. Chair's Report by Patricia Curry, Chair, for November 21, 2011. (11-5030)

**Chair Curry reported the following:**

- **The Commission's Holiday Luncheon will take place immediately following the Commission's Regular meeting scheduled for December 5, 2011. Commissioners were requested to confirm their attendance with Commissioner Sorkin or Commission staff.**

- **Effective December 2011, digital recordings of meetings will be available to members of the public via a link on the Commission's minutes and available on the website.**
- **An e-mail was sent to the Board Offices regarding the retention of the Commission's the Ex-Officio seat on the First 5 LA Commission. Commissioner Williams has represented the Commission on First 5 LA since 2005; however she will be on an extended leave. During Commissioner Williams' absence, Chair Curry will represent the Commission on First 5 LA.**
- **Effective December 1, 2011, the Music Center garage will deploy a new automated parking system. This system will affect the way Commissioner Cards are honored at the garage. The automated system will provide Commissioners with a parking ticket that will be required to be validated at the parking station in order to exit the garage. Additional information regarding this change will be provided as it becomes available.**

**After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Biondi, McClaney, Murray, Rudnick and Williams being absent), this item was received and filed.**

### **III. PRESENTATIONS**

- 5. Update on the Title IV-E Waiver by:**
- **Rhelda Shabazz, Deputy Director, DCFS**
  - **Dave Mitchell, Chief, Placement Services Bureau, Probation Department (11-5033)**

**Ms. Shabazz reported the following:**

- **The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is in its third and final sequence of the Title IV-E Waiver (Waiver), and will be applying for its renewal this year. During a recent meeting with Mr. Bryan Samuels, Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, he advised DCFS not to introduce any new initiatives. DCFS also consulted with Dr. David Sanders, former DCFS Director and current Vice-President of Casey Family Programs who advised DCFS not compare itself with other agencies, but to compare LA County pre-Waiver and post-Waiver activities.**

- While DCFS has reduced caseloads and the number of youth in out-of-home care, including congregate care, and improved several permanency indicators, DCFS' performance on important safety indicators has declined signaling the need to focus a significant allocation of Waiver reinvestment funds on strategies targeted to improve safety. As a result, DCFS has reviewed its own case work practices which include ensuring that all staff are trained on the Core Practice Model that includes the five protective factors. In addition to the Core Practice Model, all DCFS office social workers are being coached and mentored on safety strategies. DCFS also begun using Quality Service Reviews (QSRs) in line with the Katie A. lawsuit strategy. DCFS has learned a great deal from the QSR processes which includes interviewing families, therapists, and/or teachers on how DCFS offers reunification services to families.
- DCFS recognizes that although the Waiver and the Katie A. strategy are different, they are both part of the same continuum of care. At present, DCFS Deputy Directors are increasing their involvement on the Katie A. panel. DCFS is also expanding the number of co-located staff within DCFS offices to ensure that the Departments of Mental Health, Health Services as well as the Public Health Nurses are sufficiently represented. Additionally, DCFS has moved towards a data decision-making initiative. During monthly manager meetings, data is used to determine how DCFS is performing in the areas of Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Shabazz added the following:

The Bureau of Strategic Management is comprised of the following:

- Title IV-E Waiver (Waiver)
- \$5 million Permanency grant from the Federal government for disproportionality
- Resource Management Division
- Youth Development Services Division
- Out-of-Home Care Section
- Government Relations Division
- DCFS has a disproportionality grant and has been working with Michael Nash, Presiding Judge, Los Angeles Juvenile Court and the Eliminating Racial Disproportionality and Disparity Outcomes (ERDD) Workgroup to review the amount time African American children stay in care.

- **Consistency and stability regarding Team Decision Making (TDM) across all DCFS offices is very important. To ensure program fidelity, DCFS Regional Administrators now attend TDM training as they are ultimately responsible for the TDM facilitators.**
- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applications are processed in the DCFS Revenue Enhancement section, but it is DCFS policy that each social worker completes SSI applications. The percentage of applications completed for SSI can be higher through collaborative efforts of the Revenue Enhancement Section and social workers.**

**In response to questions posed by the Commission, Dr. Charles Sophy, Medical Director, DCFS added that once a youth under the care of DCFS turns 16 1/2 years of age, the Revenue Enhancement section sends a reminder to that youth's social worker to begin completing the SSI application.**

- **DCFS is expanding data-driven outcomes management to consistently improve performance across all regional offices and continually reassess each outcome for the effectiveness of strategies/services that support it.**

**In response to questions posed by the Commission, Alan Weisbart, Bureau of Strategic Management, DCFS added that in regards to the Waiver, there are certain federally mandated outcomes that DCFS must measure. DCFS is moving towards a more data-driven decision making process, however; it is difficult to link an initiative or program to an outcome.**

- **Ms. Shabazz invited the Commissioners to the next data-driven decision making meeting.**

**In response to questions posed by the Commission, Eric Marts, Deputy Director, DCFS, added that up-front assessments are a minimal cost; however, as a result of the up-front assessments, youth and their families need more Family Preservation services. Mr. Marts agreed to forward a breakdown of the figures for the up-front assessment cost to the Commission. In addition, many jurisdictions agree that if cases are setup properly in the beginning, processes thereafter will flow much more smoothly through the system.**

- **DCFS is attempting to move away from TDM and incorporate "Teaming," by creating child and family teams that will last the life of the case. Teams will include the youth's family, relatives, pastors, schools, and Probation Department if necessary.**

**Mr. Mitchell reported the following:**

- **The Probation Department currently enters data into two data systems - the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) and Probation Case Management System (PCMS). Probation is attempting to develop an interface between the two systems. In addition, Probation is attempting to develop an interface with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). Probation currently does not have viable means of determining Medi-Cal and Healthy Families eligibility for youth coming into Probation. Probation is also focusing on SSI for youth with long term mental health issues. Probation is also reviewing how the placement module within PCMS can be improved to pull Federal outcomes and data.**
- **Currently probation youth data is accessed through CWS/CMS; however, the data is not always accurate because CWS/CMS was not intended for Probation use.**
- **The Federal government has made it clear that Probation departments will be held to the same mandates and outcomes as are child welfare agencies.**
- **Probation Department currently has Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT) as the first and second sequence initiatives for the Waiver which will be expanded. Functional Family Probation which is a Probation supervision model based on the tenets of FFT are offered to all youth exiting group homes. Probation's goal is to offer after-care services to every youth exiting group home care. Approximately 95% of all Probation foster youth are in group homes and a small population resides in relative/non-relative care. Probation is working with DCFS to finalize the Request for Proposal (RFP) to begin sending youth to Foster Family Agencies (FFA's). Probation is also working with DCFS to develop a County plan for Assembly Bill 12 (AB 12).**
- **Probation's third sequence initiative for the Waiver is to increase its capacity for 241.1 cases which are cases of youth who have crossed over from DCFS to Probation. Annually, approximately 1,000 DCFS youth enter the Probation system. Although the Probation Department has limited staff to attend the DCFS Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), its goal is to conduct an MDT for all foster youth who get arrested.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Mr. Mitchell added the following:

- The 16,000 Probation youth are not all foster youth. Probation youth are only considered foster youth when they are in group homes. However, all Probation youth are prone to removal just by the very nature of their family situation and their delinquency issues. Currently the Probation Department has approximately 5,000 youth who are not on probation, but were identified as at-risk, in prevention programs.
- Currently, Probation is manually determining Medi-Cal eligibility for Probation youth. Probation is attempting to develop an interface with the Department of Public Social Services' case management system. Probation currently pays the Department of Health Services for the medical care of Probation youth in the Halls and Camps. Probation is required to pay for the youth's medical care because once a youth is detained; their Medi-Cal is terminated.

The Commission referenced the following pieces of legislation in regards to Medi-Cal eligibility for Probation detainees and asked DCFS and Probation to explore their Departments' implementation of the bills:

- California Assembly Bill 396 (Mitchell) - Medi-Cal: Juvenile Inmates
- California Senate Bill 695 (Hancock) - Medi-Cal: Juvenile Detention Facilities
- Probation is addressing aftercare services with their Functional Family Probation (FFP) Officers and is trying to develop a capacity for every child exiting group home care similar to the Probation Camp model. Additionally, the Department will be enhancing mental health services for youth exiting group home care by utilizing existing group homes that have contracts with the Department of Mental Health. Probation is also attempting to increase FFT and MST. Most of the strategies Probation has developed since the beginning of the Waiver were for aftercare services and reducing the length of stay in group home care. Since the implementation of the Waiver, it has reduced the length of stay in group home care from 360 days to 290 days.

- Probation is currently developing a Multi-Disciplinary Team Decision Making similar to the DCFS TDM. Probation will implement Multi-Disciplinary Team Decision Making meetings while youth are in group home care and focus on family visitation. Probation has the same Federal mandates as DCFS for connecting families. However, it has always been a struggle because youth are often placed too far for families to visit. Probation uses several group homes that are out of the County and a few that are out of the state.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Biondi, McClaney, Murray, Rudnick and Williams being absent), this item was received and filed.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS](#)  
                          [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - PROBATION](#)

6. Presentation on Reunification by:
- Helen Kleinberg, Commissioner
  - Rhelda Shabazz, Deputy Director, DCFS
  - Eric Marts, Deputy Director, DCFS (11-5032)

Mr. Weisbart and Mr. Marts referenced a report titled, Department of Children and Family Services – Timelines to Reunification and Reentry Following Reunification Rates November 21, 2011.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Mr. Weisbart and Mr. Marts added the following:

- Mr. Marts is unaware of any DCFS policy that regulates the frequency of visitation based on the age of the child. DCFS has hired Human Service Administrators (HSA) specifically for visitation purposes.
- Each DCFS office conducts visitation a little differently, and the issue of consistency is being addressed with the QSRs of each DCFS office. In addition, the DCFS Core Practice Model will address issues surrounding visitation, and visitation is now a Management Appraisal and Performance Plan (MAPP) goal for managers to determine how to incorporate visitation in service delivery.
- There is cost to the family to have a monitor for visitations; however, DCFS is developing a new contract that will include a visitation center for each region. In addition, provider agencies should not drop families who miss a meeting, and if it is happening DCFS should be made aware of it.

- Reentries have been on the rise, partly due to a lack of aftercare services. There used to be aftercare services in the Family Preservation contracts that provided an opportunity for transitional services, but they are no longer there. However, DCFS would like to reinstitute a complete form of aftercare services.
- Mr. Marts stated that families who DCFS considered high risk for reentry were provided with Family Preservation services and those who were considered at moderate risk for reentry did not receive those services. DCFS discovered that the families considered at moderate risk had a higher reentry rate than families considered high risk for reentry and received Family Preservation services.
- Mr. Marts does not recall any funding for aftercare services being addressed within the DCFS Letter that is forthcoming for Board approval regarding the Waiver.
- The Commission expressed concern regarding the lack of funding and strategies for aftercare services in the Waiver renewal application.

After discussion, this item was received and filed.

Further, on motion of Vice Chair Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg (Commissioners Biondi, McClaney, Murray, Rudnick and Williams being absent), the Commission approved to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors addressing the Commission's concern regarding the lack of aftercare services and strategies within Title IV-E Waiver renewal application.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

7. DCFS Interim Director's Report by Philip L. Browning, Interim Director, DCFS. (11-5031)

There were none.

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **Announcements**

8. Announcements for the meeting of November 21, 2011. (11-5035)

There were none.



**Matters Not Posted**

9. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-5034)

**There were none.**

**Public Comment**

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (11-5036)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

**Adjournment**

11. Adjournment for the meeting of November 21, 2011. (11-5038)

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.**